CONSER members,

In early October, I sent a message to the PCC Policy Committee
(PoCo) email list describing concerns you raised with the LC Serial Record
Division (SRD) copy cataloging policy. The PCC steering committee agreed
to put the topic on the agenda for the PoCo meeting in November. As you
know, Maureen Landry presented aspects of the new SRD workflow to PoCo.

Last week, I spoke with Roxanne Sellberg (Chair) and Carlen Ruschoff
(Chair Emeritus) of the PCC Steering Committee to discuss the major
concerns OpCo members have on the issue. Roxanne and Carlen supported my
recommendation to involve CONSER members in addressing those concerns.

Members expressed concern that LC didn't involve other CONSER members in
decisions that have an impact on the shared database. I think there is
still time to do a study aimed at evaluating the records done so far and
making recommendations about the process. I hope this effort will help
rebuild trust and the spirit of cooperation among all CONSER members,
including LC.

Other concerns have to do with how much information members have about the
process. CONSER members feel they have not been given a clear picture of
the status of SRD's implementation of the new workflow, the elements they
should expect to see in the records, and the basic procedures put into
place for updating the copy.

Also, the issue of whether or not these records meet existing CONSER
standards has not been fully addressed.

As soon as possible, I will make the records that have been authenticated available for all CONSER members to look at and will work with SRD to post its draft copy cataloging procedures back up on the CONSER Web page.

I will begin putting together a group to:

- examine the records done so far (about 300 since October 1, 2004)

- look at the records in terms of existing CONSER cataloging standards. Do these records represent a new standard or level that needs fuller definition?

- provide recommendations on defining record content and standards for updating these records.

Proposed timeline:

I'd like to start putting a group together before ALA Midwinter. CONSER will discuss strategies for evaluating the records at the Midwinter At-Large meeting. The group will begin its work this spring; and report recommendations or give an update at CONSER Operations in May.

Beacher Wiggins and Maureen Landry, have assured me that LC will be mindful of the recommendations of the group and will recommend to the PCC Policy Committee whether to continue to include lccopycat records in the CONSER database based on the group's recommendations. LC will, nevertheless, continue to use copy cataloging as one of its means to carry out its serials cataloging whether or not the records are added to the CONSER database.

I will be calling on some of you soon to work on this committee. In the mean time, I'd like to thank you for your cooperation, patience, and for keeping the communication going through out.

Les Hawkins
CONSER Coordinator

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